FRANKLIN COUNTY
Emergency Management
and Homeland Security
OHIO
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Agency Implementing Countywide Geographic Information System (GIS) Program

FCEM&HS is working with several local agencies to implement its new countywide geographic information system (GIS) program. The GIS data will be used to maintain situational awareness and a common operational picture during an emergency.

GIS is a set of tools that captures, stores, analyzes, manages and presents data that are linked to multiple geographic locations.

FCEM&HS established its GIS department in June to implement this public safety function and has collaborated with several other agencies and jurisdictions to develop the capability, including the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Franklin County Auditor's Office, Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and the City of Columbus.

The system will serve many important disaster preparedness functions, including helping keep an up-to-date database of outdoor warning sirens to allow for the effective placement of new sirens in Franklin County.

GIS will also be used to map evacuation routes in case of emergencies, and to create damage assessment maps that will be used to respond effectively to disasters.

FCEM&HS has already used the technology to improve emergency preparedness in Central Ohio – GIS data was used to assist the Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Board of Health with the Cities Readiness Initiative, a federally funded program designed to prepare the largest 72 U.S. cities to respond to an aerosolized anthrax attack.

FCEM&HS will continue to develop GIS technology in 2011.

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